

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DACCA 05437 080933Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 PM-05 /038 W  
-----011655 080941Z/17

P 080903Z SEP 78  
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 678

CONFIDENTIAL DACCA 5437

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PPDC  
SUBJECT: LETTER FROM CARTER TO ZIA

REF: STATE 226222

1. PRESIDENT ZIA WAS MOST GRATEFUL FOR THE PRESIDENT'S WARM LETTER AND SHOWED NO VISIBLE SIGN OF DISAPPOINTMENT AT NOT BEING INVITED TO THE WHITE HOUSE THIS FALL. SINCE ZIA WAS LEAVING FOR NORTH KOREA ON THE EARLY MORNING OF SEPT. 8, I HAD TOLD HIS OFFICE I COULD EITHER SEND AROUND THE LETTER IMMEDIATELY OR DELIVER IT PERSONALLY THAT DAY, THE 7TH. THE PRESIDENT INVITED ME TO CALL AT 8PM AT HIS RESIDENCE IN THE CANTONMENT, WHERE HE MET ME WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SHAMSUL HUQ. ZIA READ AND RE-READ THE LETTER WITH GREAT CARE AT THE BEGINNING OF MY CALL AND FROM HIS REACTION IT WAS APPARENT THAT HE ALREADY KNEW HE COULD NOT BE INVITED TO WASHINGTON. HE IMMEDIATELY SMILED AND SAID IT WAS A GOOD LETTER AND LISTENED TO ME DESCRIBE IN GREATER DETAIL THE HEAVY BURDENS WHICH PREVENTED PRESIDENT CARTER FROM RECEIVING HIM DURING A VISIT TO THE UN. ZIA SAID HE UNDERSTOOD AND, ALTHOUGH I KNOW HE IS GREATLY DISAPPOINTED, I BELIEVE HE DOES ACCEPT THE VALIDITY OF THE REASONS. AS THE ATMOSPHERE WAS AN EASY ONE, I ASKED THE PRESIDENT IF HE HAD TIME TO DISCUSS OTHER MATTERS AND THERE ENSUED AN HOUR-LONG CONVERSATION, PARTS OF WHICH I AM REPORTING SEPARATELY. AT THE END OF OUR TALK, ZIA AGAIN REFERRED

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DACCA 05437 080933Z

TO THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER; IT WAS A "BEAUTIFUL LETTER" HE SAID. IT WAS "WARM, SINCERE, CORDIAL, UNDERSTANDING..." AND HE CONTINUED TO ADD SIMILAR ADJECTIVES. HE ASKED PARTICULARLY THAT I CONVEY TO THE PRESIDENT HIS GREAT APPRECIATION FOR THE LETTER AND INFORM HIM THAT HE WOULD REPLY TO IT SOON.

2. I CONCLUDE THAT THE LETTER HAS SERVED ITS PURPOSE

ADMIRABLY. THE PRESIDENT HAS CAUSED ZIA TO UNDERSTAND THAT  
ALTHOUGH THE PRESIDENT CANNOT RECEIVE HIM IN WASHINGTON,  
WE RECOGNIZE AND APPRECIATE THE IMPORTANCE OF WHAT HE IS  
DOING IN BANGLADESH. I BELIEVE THIS ENCOURAGEMENT HAS  
BEEN APPROPRIATE AS WE ARE ONE OF THE FACTORS WHICH IS  
INFLUENCING ZIA TO PROCEED ALONG THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC  
DIRECTIONS HE HAS CHOSEN. THE LETTER SHOULD SERVE THIS  
PURPOSE WELL UNTIL EARLY NEXT YEAR WHEN, IF EVENTS  
CONTINUE TO PROCEED SMOOTHLY HERE, I HOPE THE ISSUANCE OF AN  
INVITATION TO VISIT THE US MAY BECOME PRACTICABLE.

SCHNEIDER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 sep 1978  
**Decapton Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decapton Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978DACCA05437  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780365-1202  
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**Office:** ACTION NEA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 78 STATE 226222  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
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**SAS ID:** 1510631  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LETTER FROM CARTER TO ZIA  
**TAGS:** PPDC, US, BG, (RAHMAN, ZIAUR)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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